attention patterns which are made the same by rotation or inversion is represented by a representative attention pattern, statistics is obtained for representative attention patterns, a group-pattern determination table is generated from the statistics for the representative attention patterns, and finally, a group determination table is generated for all attention patterns.

With the use of such a method, it is expected that individuality is avoided and highly reliable determination is made with a relatively small number of samples.

A detailed procedure for generating a group determination table in the second case will be described below.

Prior to the generation of a group determination table based on statistics, a conversion table for converting actual attention patterns and actual group patterns to representative attention patterns and representative group patterns is generated in advance.

In the same way as in the first case, a condition in which the number of conference participants is three is taken as an example. An attention-pattern conversion table shown in Fig. 41, a group conversion table shown in Fig. 42, and a group inverted-conversion table shown in Fig. 45 need to be prepared in advance.

The attention-pattern conversion table shown in Fig. 41

shows which representative pattern serves as a representative of an attention pattern, and which conversion method is used for converting an attention pattern to a representative attention pattern.

As a representative attention pattern, an attention pattern having the smallest number is selected when the attention-destination numbers of the conference participants HM1, HM2, and HM3 are regarded as a third digit, a second digit, and a first digit, respectively, to form a decimal number.

Conversions are expressed by whether inversion is performed and the number of rotations under a rule in which inversion is performed first and then rotation is performed. Fig. 46A and Fig. 46B show the axis of inversion and the direction of rotation. Examples of inversion and rotation are shown in Fig. 46A and Fig. 46B.

In the attention-pattern conversion table shown in Fig. 41, whether inversion is performed is indicated by "0," which shows no inversion, and "1," which shows that inversion is performed.

The number of rotations means the number of rotations performed in the direction shown in Fig. 46B.

The group conversion table shown in Fig. 42 indicates that each group pattern is converted to which group pattern when the above-described inversion and rotation are

performed.

More specifically, group patterns obtained when neither inversion nor rotation is applied to each group pattern, when rotation is applied once, when rotation is applied twice, when only inversion is applied, when inversion is applied and then rotation is applied once, and when inversion is applied and then rotation is applied twice are shown in the table.

When attention patterns in samples are converted to representative attention patterns, this table is used for obtaining group patterns corresponding to group patterns in samples which match the conversion. Details will be described later.

The group-pattern inverted-conversion table shown in Fig. 45 indicates a group pattern obtained when the inverted conversion of a specified conversion is applied to each group pattern, and is used for generating the group determination table shown in Fig. 40 from a representative-group determination table shown in Fig. 44, described later.

A device structure and a generation procedure for generating the group determination table shown in Fig. 40 from these tables will be described next.

Fig. 47 shows functional blocks of a device for generating the group determination table shown in Fig. 40.

Each block can be implemented by either software or